

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 /015 W

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R 071455Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8740

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 8167

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TPHY, US, AR

SUBJ: PORT CALLS R/V MELVILLE

REF: STATE 242121

1. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE NO SIMPLE ANSWERS WHEN IT COMES
TO OBTAINING FUEL AT USHUAIA.

2. AFTER NEARLY FULL DAY ON PHONE TO NAVY, YPF, AND
ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE, FOLLOWING IS WHAT WE CURRENTLY KNOW:
(A) NAVY PREFERS TO TRANSFER PROCEDURE FOR SUPPLYING FUEL
FOR CIVILIAN SHIPS AT USHUAIA TO YPF AND IS TRYING TO
CARRY THIS OUT. (B) YPF SAYS DIESEL FUEL IS IN VERY
SHORT SUPPLY AND WILL MAKE NO GUARANTEE OF AVAILABILITY.
IF "MELVILLE" CAN USE GASOIL, THIS IS RELATIVELY CERTAIN
TO BE AVAILABLE. NORMAL PRICE CHARGED TO FOREIGN SHIPS
IS APPARENTLY US\$ 200 PER CUBIC METER, BUT THERE MAY BE
ADDITIONAL CHARGES FOR TRANSPORT OF FUEL TO USHUAIA.
THIS MUST BE NEGOTIATED BY SCRIPPS OR ITS REP, AND THIS
BEST DONE AND PAYMENT MADE IN BUENOS AIRES. (C) ANOTHER
POSSIBILITY WE ARE PURSUING IS TO HAVE "MELVILLE" (AND
PERHAPS CONRAD AS WELL) RECOGNIZED AS RELATED TO
ARGENTINE ANTARCTIC EFFORT, IN WHICH CASE THERE MIGHT
BE CHANCE OF OBTAINING FUEL FROM NAVY STOCKS MORE
EASILY AND AT LOWER PRICE. WE ARE PURSUING THIS WITH
ARGENTINE ANTACTIC INSTITUTE.

3. ABOVE IS IN WAY OF STATUS REPORT. WE WILL ADVISE WHEN
WE HAVE FURTHER INFO, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE SCRIPPS
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PRELIMINARY REACTION, PARTICULARLY ON SUITABILITY OF GASOIL

AND OR DESIRED FUEL SPECIFICATIONS FOR USE IN MELVILLE.
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